

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :	Siegfried SCHLISIO	)	Group Art Unit: Unknown
		)	
Appln. No. :	Not yet assigned	)	Examiner: Unknown
		)	
Filed :	Concurrently herewith	)	Confirmation No.: Unknown
		)	
For :	PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR CONNECTING SMOKING ARTICLES		

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,  
Applicant hereby submits the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

- (1) European Patent No. 0 687 424 issued April 8, 1998 (published December 20, 1995), which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0004];
- (2) German Patent Application No. 25 17 299 published November 6, 1975, August 23, 1978, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006];
- (3) European Patent No. 0 821 887 issued October 24, 2001 (published February 4, 1998), which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0007];
- (4) German Patent Application No. 16 32 193 published November 5, 1970, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0027];

- (5) German Patent Application No. 198 57 576 published June 15, 2000, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0027]; and
- (6) German Patent No. 31 37 223 published July 22, 1982, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0050].

The following documents were cited in a Search Report dated March 14, 2003 and conducted in European Patent Application No. 02 02 3524.8 - 2313, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (7) German Patent Application No. 1 258 773 published January 11, 1968 as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone) with regard to claims 1 - 4, 8, 10, 12 - 16, 20, and 21 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 2 as being particularly relevant;
- (8) German Patent Application No. 1 283 723 published November 21, 1968 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1 - 4, 8, 10, 12, 13, 20, and 21 of the European application. The European Examiner noted Figure 1 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.K. Patent Specification No. 1,046,538 published October 26, 1966, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as an English language patent family member of the above-cited German document;

(9) German Patent No. 958 208 issued February 21, 1957 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 8, 12, and 21 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 1 as being particularly relevant. Moreover, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 2,808,059 issued October 1, 1957 to STELZER is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited German patent;

(10) German Patent No. 948 400 issued August 30, 1956 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 8, 12, and 21 of the European application. The Examiner noted Figure 2 as being particularly relevant;

(11) German Patent No. 936 850 issued December 22, 1955 as an "X" category document with regard to claims 1, 8, 12, and 21 of the European application. The Examiner noted the Figures as being particularly relevant.

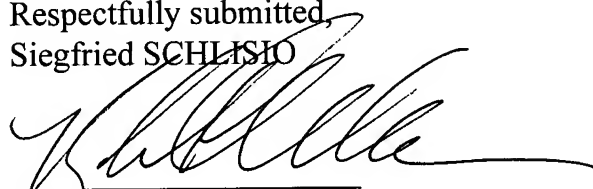
Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies

of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Siegfried SCHLISIO



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*7055.43*

September 12, 2003  
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P23885		Serial No. Not Yet Assigned							
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Siegfried SCHLISIO									
				Filing Date Concurrently Herewith		Group Not Yet Assigned							
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>													
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE			
		2	8	0	8	0	5	9	10/01/57	STELZER			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO			
		0	6	8	7	4	2	4	04/08/98	E.P.O.			
		2	5	1	7	2	9	9	11/06/75	GERMANY			
		0	8	2	1	8	8	7	10/24/01	E.P.O.			
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			9	5	6	2	0	8	02/21/57	GERMANY			
			9	4	8	4	0	0	08/30/56	GERMANY			
			9	3	6	8	5	0	12/22/55	GERMANY			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>													
EXAMINER						DATE CONSIDERED							
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.													